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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Leningrad Oblast)
 SUBJECT 1. SKB 143 in Leningrad
 2. Living Conditions in Leningrad

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Enclosure

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2. The S.K.B. (Spetsialnoye Konstruktsionnoye Byuro) within the shipbuilding yard "SUDOMEKH" in Leningrad.

- a) General, and location

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[redacted]

The S.K.B. has a Test Station and workshop in a shed of the shipbuilding yard "SUDOMEKH", and offices, drawing offices and a technical laboratory in a house in the same yard. The shipyard lies at the mouth of the R. BOLSHAYA NEVA.

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[redacted]

[redacted] the S.K.B. existed already before or at least during the war. Two of the Soviet engineers (see para b below) [redacted] were said to have been employed by this organisation during or before the war.

[redacted] the S.K.B. worked closely with a technical office also concerned with shipbuilding which is established at SHUVALOVO on the Northern outskirts of Leningrad (square A/6 of the "Mil.-Geo.-Plan von Leningrad" near the Lake SREDNYE). Engineers from this technical office occasionally paid visits to the S.K.B.

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[redacted]

[redacted] sometime in 1951 some of the administrative and designing offices of the S.K.B. were transferred to the "House of the Soviets", a large administration building

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b) Scientific Order of Battle of the S.K.B.: Russians

The head of the S.K.B. was ANTIPIN. Though wearing naval uniform, he had the rank of Colonel.

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[redacted]

ANTIPIN's deputy was KOZLOVSKIY who as the previous administrative head of another Institute or Works was said to have been awarded the STALIN prize.

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[redacted]

SILOPOLSKIY was the technical director.

[redacted]

The head of the development department, STANKOVICH, was the first Soviet official to come to BLANKENBURG/HARZ in order to establish the engineering office Dr. SZTATECSNY.

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The head of the designing department was Mrs. ROTSTEIN, a chief engineer.

MINOVITSKIY, a certificated engineer (Dipl. Ing.) who had studied in BERLIN, was with the S.K.B. only for a short time, after which he was transferred to the technical office concerned with shipbuilding in SHUVALOVO.

Engineer SHERBOVSKIY was concerned with armatures.

Apart from the a/m officials and engineers the S.K.B. employed approx 20 other engineers, as well as 8 to 10 draughtsmen and a number of secretaries and interpreters.

two other Soviet officers formerly with the office Dr. SZTATECSNY in BLANKENBURG/HARZ, who subsequently were not with, but occasionally visited the S.K.B. on behalf of the Soviet Navy. They are:

Colonel BRAMANN

Major RIBAKOV,

(Note:

another Soviet office established in BLANKENBURG/HARZ in the post war period. Staffed exclusively by Soviet Naval officers (approximately eight in number, and all of them making a very good impression) they seemed to be concerned with questions relating to turbines.

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d) Technical literature available.

The only technical literature available at the S.K.B. were books written in Russian; if the S.K.B. possessed Western technical periodicals they were not made available to the Germans.

Only the group leader of the Germans, Dr. SZTATECSNY, had the written authority to peruse Western technical literature and periodicals in the State Library of LENINGRAD.

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publications from Eastern Germany:

Die Technik
Schiffsbau
Vorrichtungsbau
Kraftfahrttechnik.

/e).....

e) Qualifications of the Soviet engineers employed at the S.K.B.

[redacted] with one or two exceptions only, 25X1
 the Soviet engineers employed at the S.K.B. were not only inexperienced,
 but also had no technical talent whatsoever. 25X1
 [redacted] experiments carried out by the Soviet engineers on their own,
 following a technical disagreement with the Germans, ended in failure and
 serious damage to the WALTER machinery. Although [redacted] 25X1
 the group under Dr. SZTATECSNY was not employed on any worthwhile tasks from
 end 1950/beginning 1951 onwards up to the time of their repatriation in
 Feb 53, this should not be taken to indicate that the Soviets were able to
 dispense with their assistance, but rather as an effort to keeping them
 uninformed of the latest developments, prior to their repatriation.

[redacted] 25X1

3. Living conditions as existing in Leningrada) Prices of commodities, and cost of services

[redacted] list of prices of a number of commodities 25X1
 and cost of services

[redacted]

For the purpose of comparing the prices as existing at the beginning
 of 1953 with those of 1948, the latter prices are given [redacted] 25X1

i) <u>Foodstuffs and beverages:</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Roubles</u>	<u>Price in 1948</u>
Butter, 1st quality	kilo	32.--	70.--
Black bread	"	1.40	1.80
White bread	"	4.--	
Sugar	"	11.20	15.--
Sweetmeats, 1st quality	"	65.-- to 100.--	
" 2nd and 3rd quality	"	13.-- to 60.--	
Cocoa	"	180.--	
Chocolate	"	160.-- to 200.--	
Coffee	"	57.--	
Semolina	"	9.--	14.--
Noodles	"	7.--	
Flour (shop price)	"	7.--	10.--
" (market price)	"	10.-- to 12.--	
Potatoes (shop price)	"	-.95 to 4.--	
" (market price)	"	1.50 to 6.--	
Cabbage	"	2.--	
Carrots	"	1.30	
Pickled cucumbers	"	3.--	
Sausages, 1st quality	"	48.-- to 80.--	
" 2nd quality	"	19.-- to 40.--	
Peas	"	6.--	
Cheese	"	24.-- to 45.--	
Apples	"	15.--	
Grapes	"	16.--	
Oranges	each	4.50	
Lemons	"	3.--	

/Eggs.....

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<u>Foodstuffs and beverages</u> (contd.)	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Roubles</u>	<u>Price in 1948</u>
Eggs (market price)	each	2.--	
" (shop price)	"	- .78	
Pork	kilo	22.-- to 26.--	34.--
Beef	"	16.-- to 20.--	28.--
Mutton	"	10.-- to 14.--	
Poultry	"	15.--	
Suet	"	18.-- to 20.--	28.--
Lard	"	24.--	
Tea	"	90.--	
Sunflower oil	"	19.--	
Milk	litre	4.-- to 6.--	
Caviare, best quality	50 grammes	7.50	
" 2nd quality	kilo	57.--	
Beer	lit. bottle	3.20 to 4.50	
Wine	24.--	
Vodka	22.--	
Champagne	29.-- to 33.--	

ii) Clothing

Suiting (woollen)	metre	450.-- to 500.--	600.--
Silk material	"	145.--	
Cotton and wool mixture	"	140.-- to 250.--	
Cotton material	"	8.-- to 20.--	
Set of underclothing (gents)		85.--	
Set of underclothing (ladies)		60.--	
Stockings, woollen (gents)	pair	13.--	
Stockings, cotton (gents)	"	8.--	
Stockings, silk (ladies)	"	28.--	
Stockings, Perlon (ladies)	"	45.-- to 50.--	
Felt hat	each	65.-- to 150.--	
Gloves, lined, for adults	pair	80.-- to 100.--	
Gloves, not lined, for children	"	6.--	
Fur cap, for children	each	45.--	
" " ladies	"	200.-- to 500.--	
" " gents	"	90.-- to 600.--	
Shoes, for children	pair	30.-- to 75.--	
Gents shoes, poor quality	"	200.--	
" " fair "	"	400.--	
Child's between-seasons coat	each	230.--	
" Fur coat	"	400.--	
Gents winter overcoat,			
" " 1st quality	"	1,500.--	
" " very poor quality	"	500.--	
Ladies fur coat (poor quality:			
" " rabbit)	"	700.-- to 1,200.--	
" " (good to best quality)	"	4,000.-- to 15,000.--	

iii) Other commodities

Iron bedstead	"	500.-- to 600.--	
Couch	"	800.--	
Wardrobe	"	600.--	
Chair	"	40.--	
Table	"	120.--	
Mattress	"	210.--	
Iron bedstead for a child	"	250.--	
Mattress for same (wadding)	"	50.--	

/Living room...

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<u>Other Commodities</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Roubles</u>	<u>Price in 1948</u>
(contd.)			
Living room suite (ex DDR or CSR)	each		14,800.--
Bedroom suite (ex DDR or CSR)	"		12,000.--
Set of crockery (cups, etc.)		200.-- to	300.--
" " " (plates, etc.)			400.--
Cooking pot (large)			24.--
" " (small)			12.--
Radio set		800.-- to	1,200.--
Television set (small)			1,200.--
" " ("Leningrad")			2,500.--
Bicycle		600.-- to	700.--
Toilet soap	cake		4.35

iv) Services

Electric current	Kw	-44
Cooking gas	kw	-20
Rent of a flat consisting of 2 rooms, kitchen and bathroom, including heating	per month	147.--

v) Shortages

Woollen suitings of good quality and woollen underwear were at all times very hard to obtain.

Periodically shops were short of butter, eggs, rice and flour. The latter commodity was obtainable (in the shops) only on official holidays e.g. 1 May and 7 Nov and was rationed out at 1 kilo per head.

[redacted] some of the a/n shortages were 25X1
occasionally created by the population obviously laying in stocks of
foodstuffs, at times when certain events made the international situation
look particularly alarming, such as the BERLIN blockade and the outbreak
of the war in KOREA.

b) Medical service

[redacted] 25X1
An expectant mother is supposed to report to the "Poliklinik" latest
in the third month of pregnancy. A very thorough examination then takes
place and the data are entered on a form which is handed to the expectant
mother with the order to report to the "Poliklinik" every fortnight, for
further examinations. Two months prior to the confinement the expectant
mother has to register with a maternity hospital with a view to reserving a
bed.

Admittance to the maternity hospital is not given much before
confinement; if confinement has taken place already at home, both the
mother and child are removed to the maternity hospital. On being admitted,
the mother's clothing has to be taken away from the hospital by the husband
or other relations. The patient is given a nightshirt buttoning in front,

[redacted] 25X1
the garment bore dark patches from previous
patients; likewise hospital staff could be seen lying on the grass in
their white overalls during the lunch break.

/Informant.....

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Visits were not allowed, and presents sent in [] had to be of the type which could be washed (fruit, etc.) The babies were swathed in thick clothing, with a woollen shawl round their head;

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In the meantime, mother's milk could be obtained at the hospital, at the price of 3 roubles per 100 grammes. - Babies suffering from colics were not given gripe water, but strong, black tea.

The daily diet in the maternity hospital was as follows:-

early breakfast:	bread, butter and marmelade, poor quality coffee
10 o'clock:	some thick stew of gruel
lunch:	vegetable soup, alternately mashed potatoes or maccaroni; not always meat, but if so, meat balls invariably
4 o'clock:	some synthetic fruit juice, or baked fruit
dinner:	bread and sausage, black tea.

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A certain surgical operation necessary after a miscarriage was carried out without the patients being given an anaesthetic. A patient [] was not attended in spite of her practically bleeding to death during the night. The place being overcrowded, some of the patients were lying on wooden benches in the corridors.

Treatment both in hospital and the M.I. rooms was entirely free of charge. Medicines prescribed to out-patients could be obtained at very low prices.

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[] tuberculosis is very prevalent in Leningrad, due to the poor climatic and housing conditions, as well as the lack of good food which the average wage earner cannot afford. Added to this is the fact that sufferers from the disease, even when admitted to a sanatorium, are not allowed to stay there nearly long enough for them to be cured. One of the interpreters employed by the S.K.B. was a case in question: though not cured he was recalled from a sanatorium, back to work.

c) Cost of holidays away from home

Unless he could visit relations during his holidays, it was out of the question from the financial point of view for the average wage earner to spend his holidays away from home.

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In view of the high cost of accommodation it is hardly surprising that most of the Russians occupying rooms in the "dachas" in REPINO and other seaside places were either works' managers, professors or officers. There were some reconvalescent homes in the area at which workers were spending their holidays, but [redacted] these are privileges reserved for "stakhanovites" and workers active in the Communist party. 25X1

Children, on the other hand, were more fortunate than their parents. A great many of them spent their school holidays in "Pioneer" camps at a small cost [redacted] 25X1
There were very many of these "Pioneer" camps in the area North of LENINGRAD, South of the Finnish frontier.

4. Living conditions of the Germans; Contact with the Russian population

a) Restriction of movements

[redacted], the Germans [redacted] were throughout their stay in LENINGRAD not in possession of any identity document, and with the exception of a small area in the neighbourhood of where they were accommodated they were not allowed to move about in LENINGRAD unless accompanied by an interpreter/escort. What irked the Germans most was the fact that on visiting a theatre, cinema or restaurant they were expected to bear the cost of the interpreter's admittance and/or entertainment. 25X1

[redacted]
it was forbidden to take photographs of military buildings and bridges,
[redacted]

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On condition that they were accompanied by an interpreter/escort, the Germans were allowed to undertake excursions to various places in the vicinity of LENINGRAD, such as PETERGOF (nr LOMONOSOV), PUSHKIN (South of LENINGRAD) and KURORT (North of SESTRORETSK). These excursions took the form of day-trips on Sundays, since it would not have been possible to obtain accommodation over the week-end. [redacted] such amenities were non-existent outside the large towns.

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b) Contact with the Russian population

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[redacted] Germans [redacted] were told that the S.K.B. had enough interpreters to ensure their smooth working together with the Russian engineers without their going to the trouble of acquiring the language. This was no doubt a way of preventing the Germans from cultivating Russian acquaintances; the few with whom they had conversations were consequently German-speaking Russians. [redacted] there is a fair number of these in LENINGRAD.

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On the whole the Russians were extremely friendly towards the Germans but could be astonishingly conventional and even refrain from greeting when noticing that the Germans were accompanied by an interpreter/escort.

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One of the Russian mechanics at the Test station and workshop of the S.K.B. was arrested for telling one of the sons of Engineer DETTKE that his brother was killed in KOREA. He returned to his work place after some time, but he never engaged in conversation with any of the Germans again.

German school children were often asked by Russian girls for illustrated papers from Germany. They knew the difference between East German and West German papers: declaring the former to be the "same as our own" they said they were interested in papers with pictures, for instance, of the (then) Princess Elizabeth, Princess Margaret and other pictures of that type. They were also avid for literature enjoyed by adolescent girls; there seemed to be a dearth if not complete lack of such light novels in the USSR.

One of the German girls refused, at school, to read from a book which dealt with partisan warfare and atrocities committed by the Germans in the USSR. She said she considered it as insulting to her fatherland. After at first creating an upheaval, the incident had no further consequences.

c) Political, and MGB.

Apart from being invited to take part in the 1 May and 7 November demonstrations there was never any attempt on the part of the Soviet authorities at influencing the Germans politically. On the other hand it is possible that the interpreters/escorts had the task of sounding the Germans for their political views, for they would frequently broach political subjects. Generally the Germans were careful not to commit themselves, and they also instructed their children accordingly. When one of the schoolmistresses inquired of the German children whether the reception of RIAS broadcasts was good on the radio sets of their parents (the reception on her own set being very poor) she got no response. The same schoolmistress also became aware of the Germans' exchange of letters with their neighbours via the school children mentioned in para 4(a) above, and she caused the letters to be given up to her. 25X1

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Sometime in 1949 both foreman fitter DETTKE and fitter NATHAUS were called to the HQ of the MGB, following a failure at the testing of the WALTER machinery. They were accused of sabotage in that, prior to being sent to Leningrad, they had not exercised sufficient care when sent to the Maschinenfabrik WOLF in BUCKAU (MAGDEBURG) and the submarine components factory SCHUMANN in LEIPZIG respectively for the purpose of accepting parts for the WALTER machinery. The tests had shown that the parts concerned were not absolutely stainless as they were supposed to be. 25X1

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e) Listening to foreign broadcasts

foreign broadcasts between the hours of 2000 to
2300, local time. BBC broadcasts in German had a very poor
reception

the RLAS broadcasts were occasionally jammed,
but not regularly.

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